

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NIC-01 CU-02 DRC-01 /058 W

----- 130041

R 151430Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2115

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0653

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKEND PRESS

THESS PAPERS DOMINATED OVER PAST WEEKEND BY ELECTION SPECULATION
AND ACTIVITIES OF POLITICAL PARTIES. FOLLOWING ARE PRINCIPAL
LOCAL ITEMS OF NOTE:

1) STUDENT DEMONSTRATION: THESS WEEKEND PAPERS GIVE
HEAVY COVERAGE TO DEMONSTRATION AT UNIVERSITY
OCTOBER 13. EVENT, SPONSORED BY VARIOUS
LEFTIST STUDENT GROUPS, WAS CALLED TO PROTEST
EARLY ELECTION DATE AND DECLARE NOVEMBER 17 DAY
OF MOURNING FOR POLYTECHNIC VICTIMS. STUDENTS
ALSO CHANTED AND CARRIED PLACARDS FOR PUNISHMENT
OF JUNTA LEADERS, RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY,
AND "DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION". PAPERS REPORT
CROWDS UP TO 20,000 ALTHOUGH OBSERVERS ESTIMATED
APPROX 8,000-10,000. GROUP MET AT
CAMPUS AT 1730 AND PROCEEDED IN ORDERLY MARCH
ALONG MAJOR STREETS, DISSOLVING AT 2100. PROTESTORS
ADDRESSED BY VARIOUS STUDENT LEADERS, INCLUDING
CYPRIOT AND PALESTINIAN STUDENTS, AND REPS OF
PASOK AND KKE-INTERNAL WING. PRESENCE OF PASOK
AND KKE ALSO APPARENT IN PLACARDS AND SLOGANS,,
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WHILE DEMONSTRATION ECHOED NUMBER

OF ANTI-AMERICAN THEMES, THESE WERE DISTINCTLY SECONDARY TO OTHER ISSUES. APPROX 200-300 POLICE STATIONED BEHIND CONGEN BUILDING, BUT MARCH TOOK OTHER ROUTE.

2. OPENING OF PASOK OFFICES: ALSO PROMINENT IN PRESS WAS OFFICIAL OPENING MORNING OCTOBER 13 OF PASOK OFFICES ON CENTRAL DOWNTOWN BOULEVARD. CEREMONIES IN SMALL FOURTH FLOOR OFFICES LIMITED TO PARTY OFFICIALS (INCLUDING 7 MEMBERS OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, BUT NOT PAPANDREOU), PRESS, AND FEW GUESTS. SLOGANS BROADCAST TO CROWD OF APPROX 800-1000 OUTSIDE INCLUDED "NO TO ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 17", "NATO, CIA, TREASON", AND "GIVE JUNTA TO PEOPLE". LOCAL PASOK CHAIRMAN DR. SPYROS VASILAS COORDINATED PROCEEDINGS, INTRODUCED PASOK OFFICIALS, AND PAID TRIBUTE TO POLYTECHNIC VICTIMS. SHORT MESSAGE FROM PAPANDREOU CALLED FOR POPULAR SUPPORT IN ELECTIONS TO "DETERMINE STRUCTURE OF AUTHORITY FOR YEARS TO COME". OPENING WELL ORGANIZED BUT, GIVEN ADVANCE PUBLICITY, NOT ATTENDED BY ANTICIPATED LARGE CROWDS. PARTICIPANTS ENTIRELY YOUNG PEOPLE, MOSTLY STUDENTS.

3. OTHER NEW OFFICES: "MAKEDONIA" OF OCTOBER 15 CARRIES PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT ON OPENING OF LOCAL OFFICE BY ROYAL NATIONAL FRONT OF NORTHERN GREECE. ACCORDING TO REPORT, MEMBERSHIP DEDICATED TO "CROWN DEMOCRACY AND FAITH IN KING CONSTANTINE". ORGANIZATION HAD PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED ROYALIST LEAFLETS IN THESSALONIKI AND KAVALA (THESS 606). PRESS ALSO NOTES PLANS FOR OPENING THIS WEEK OF LOCAL NEA DEMOCRATIA OFFICES UNDER DIRECTION OF FORMER ERE BACKER AND NEW PRES OF HELLENIC SUGAR BOARD ANTONIOS VEZIROGLOU. NOTE: CENTER UNION (CU) LOCAL OFFICES ALREADY OPENED WITHOUT FANFARE AND NOW ORGANIZING FOR POSSIBLE VISIT OCTOBER 20 BY MAVROS. EDA OFFICES OPENED LATE SEPT (THESS 608). PRESS ALSO REPORTS OPENING OF SEPARATE CAMPAIGN OFFICES BY

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INDIVIDUAL CU AND NEA DEMOCRATIA CANDIDATES.

4. UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS: "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" OF OCTOBER 12 REPORTS THAT ELECTIONS FOR THESS UNIV RECTOR AND SENIOR OFFICIALS, WHICH DISRUPTED BY STUDENTS OCTOBER 3 (THESS 636), NOW RESCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 15. AGREEMENT FOR NEW DATE REACHED WITH MIN ED AFTER ADDITIONAL

FACULTY MEMBERS, INCLUDING PRESENT RECTOR SDRAKAS, PROHIBITED FROM VOTING BECAUSE OF JUNTA ASSOCIATIONS.

5. THESS LAWYERS PETITION: ALL PAPERS OF OCTOBER 13 PRINT TEXT OF DECLARATION SIGNED BY 328 THESS LAWYERS, INCLUDING NUMBER OF PROMINENT FIGURES, CALLING FOR RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY AND PUNISHMENT OF JUNTA LEADERS. SPONSORS IDENTIFIED AS "DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS RENEWAL MOVEMENT".

6. EDITORIAL COMMENT: CONSERVATIVE "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" OF OCTOBER 12 CARRIES SHARPLY WORDED EDITORIAL BY CHIEF ED KYROU CONDEMNING RECENT STUDENT PRETESTS AND MIN ED "LENIENCY" AS RESPONSIBLE FOR GROWING COMMUNIST INFLUENCE. KYROU WRITES THAT STUDENTS HAVE CREATED "CLIMATE OF UNCERTAINTY AND INSTABILITY". KYROU POSITION CONSISTENT WITH "VORRAS" LINE WHICH HAS CRITICIZED ALLEGED TEACHING OF COMMUNIST DOCTRINE IN GYMNASIA AND LABELED STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AS "COMMUNIST AND ANTI-PATRIOTIC".
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, ELECTION FORECASTS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974THESSA00653
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740293-0487
From: THESSALONIKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741044/aaaablsm.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKEND PRESS THESS PAPERS DOMINATED OVER PAST WEEKEND BY ELECTION SPECULATION
TAGS: PINT, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005